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General

Ireland is located in Western Europe, occupying five-sixths of the island of Ireland in the North Atlantic Ocean, W of Great Britain.

The climate is temperate maritime modified by the North Atlantic Current. The winters are mild and the summers cool. The climate is consistently humid, and overcast about half the time.

The terrain is mostly level with rolling interior plain surrounded by rugged hills and low mountains terminating in sea cliffs on the W coast.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect.

See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Cautions

High speed craft operate between the coast of Ireland and the coast of the United Kingdom. For further information on high speed craft, see United Kingdom.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Irish pound, consisting of 100 pence.

Fishing Areas

Trawlers fish for a considerable distance off the SW coast of Ireland, principally in the autumn, however, such vessels may be encountered here at any time of year.

The fishing grounds are limited to within depths of 549m, and extend from off Fastnet Rock to a position in 51°10'N, 14°30'W, and then N to Porcupine Bank. These deep sea fishing grounds also extend S from off Fastnet Rock to 49°N.

Trawling is carried out all year round on Nympe Bank. On the E coast of Ireland from Tuscar Rock to Inishtrahull, trawling is carried on throughout the year mostly between Dublin Bay and Lough Strangford, off Larne, E of Inishtrahull, and in the approaches to North Channel.

Some trawling is carried on in Dingle Bay from October to June, and in Galway Bay and Donegal Bay throughout the year.

Trawling is carried out on the NW coast, on and E of Vidal Bank, and NW of Tory Island, in depths of 183 to 549m. These deep sea grounds extend N to St. Kilda and beyond.

Drift nets may be met with off the SW coast of Ireland far offshore from April to June and inshore during September and October.

Close inshore, SW of Cork Harbor, from May to November, off Kinsale, April to June, and inshore October and November.

Nets may be encountered off Waterford and South Wexford Coast, up to 30 miles off, from February to June; close off the E coast of Wexford and the coasts of Wicklow and Dublin, nets may be encountered from October to January; from 10 to 25 miles offshore between E and NE of Howth, from June to August; off Ardglass, from May to August; close inshore off Kilkeel, during September and October.

Drift nets are also employed in Galway Bay during September and October; off the N coast of Mayo and N and W coasts of Donegal, not far offshore, from July to September; and up to 40 miles W of Inishtrahull, during January, February, May, and June.

British and French mackerel drifters may be encountered during the months of April to June between the latitudes of the Fastnet and the Scilly Isles, and between the meridians of 11°W and 6°W. Mackerel drifters normally lie to their nets, which may extend up to 3.5 miles and are only marked by a can buoy at the end and occasional floats. The usual lights for a drift-net vessel are exhibited by the drifters. It is not possible to steam over the drift-nets without doing damage as they lie on the surface.

Government

Ireland is a republic. The capital is Dublin.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

Jan. 1, New Year's Day; March 17, Saint Patrick's Day (except when this date falls on a Sunday, when the feast is kept on March 18); Good Friday; Easter Monday; Whit Monday; August Bank Holiday; Last Monday in October, Saint Stephen's Day; Dec. 25, Christmas Day; and December 26 (except when this date falls on a Sunday, when the feast is kept on December 27).

Industries

The main industries include food products, brewery products, textiles, clothing, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, machinery, transportation equipment, glass and crystal.

Languages

Irish is the first official language. English is recognized as the second official language.

Pilotage

A Vessel Traffic Service exists for Dublin. For details of pilotage see Pub. 142, Sailing Directions (Enroute) Ireland and the West Coast of England.

In addition to signals of the International Code, any vessel requiring a pilot at night should show a blue light every 15 minutes, and a bright white light, flashed or shown just above the bulwarks at short or frequent intervals, for about 1 minute at a time.

Search and Rescue

Lifesaving

The coast lifesaving service maintains numerous lifesaving stations on the S, E, and W coasts. Each station is equipped with rocket rescue equipment and renders assistance or informs authorities who are in a position to assist.

When distress messages call for action by the Irish Lifesaving Services, they should be passed to the Lifeboat Station and the Coast Lifesaving Station nearest to the incident, and to the Marine Rescue Coordination Center, Haulbowline, Cobh.

Signals

Storm warnings are only broadcast by radio. No visual storm signals are shown.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is ZULU (0).

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at 42 Elgin Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

The mailing address is the same.